

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 10/17/06, 7:15 to 10:00 PM, Town Hall Annex 2nd Floor Conference Room
Submitted by Laura Wiener

Members and Associates Present: Ed Starr, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Scott Smith, Laura Wiener, Lieut. James McHugh, Howard Muise, Jeff Maxtutis, John Sanchez, Joe Cahill

1. Public Comments. Sharon Shaloo of 8 Ravine Street presented her concerns about congestion and illegal parking during drop-off and pick-up times for ACC and Ecole Bilingue on Irving Street (Parmenter School). Cars get parked on both sides, from end to end of this narrow street, sometimes blocking driveways, preventing access by residents. There is no off street parking for staff or parents at the site. Lieut. McHugh asked her to call him when these conditions occur and he will get someone out to ticket. Ed advised her to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen who will refer it to TAC, for study and recommendation.
2. Administration.
 - a. Approval of minutes of 9/19/06. Unanimously voted.
 - b. Current projects list reviewed. Request for crosswalk at Warren Street referred to Crosswalk Working Group (Howard, Scott, Elisabeth, Paulo Marinelli). Recommendations ready to go—Crosby Street, and Wilbur/Wollaston. Bring letters of recommendation for Board of Selectmen to next meeting for final approval. Quincy Street, Marathon Street, and Waldo Street are complete.
3. Lockeland/Mass. Ave. Some changes have already been implemented and have resulted in incremental improvements. At this point, choices are to leave the lane drop where it is, or shift it east, closer to the High School. Joe, Jeff, and Lieut McHugh all agreed that the lane drop should be left as is. Scott said that it is so short it is not ideal. Jeff noted that moving it east toward the high school would be worse. There is no better place for this merge to occur. Additional changes should be analyzed as part of a total look at Mass. Ave., because changes would just shift the problem. Ed asked about adding a “Lane Merge” sign. Joe noted that it is not technically 2 lanes, therefore not a lane merge. Scott suggested addition of a marked parking lane on the eastbound side, Lockland to Bartlett, with a bump out in front of Johnnie’s Foodmaster at 2nd crosswalk. Joe will bring to next meeting a formal motion, draft report and recommendation to the Board of Selectmen
4. All Night Parking Ban. Town Manager requested a recommendation on this issue from TAC. Howard noted that it does impose a burden on some people, and can invite faster speeds at night. Lieut. McHugh noted that it gives police better visibility at night. Elisabeth noted that making more spaces will invite more cars. Scott added that enforcement could be increased in winter months and decreased in summer months. Ed will draft a memo to Town Manager representing the majority view.
5. Webster Street Parking. Complaints have been received about all day parkers on Webster, Warren, Broadway and Franklin. Some of this may be overflow parking from Arlington Catholic. Webster Street is narrower than most East Arlington streets. Franklin Street now has unrestricted parking. Recommend changing Franklin to 2 hour

parking on one side of street (with concurrence of Fire Chief). Arlington Catholic has 90 spaces allocated in the Municipal lot and does not use them all. Students should be encouraged to use those spaces.

6. Downing Square. Resident mailing is ready to go out. Business mailing will ask for feedback and give information, particularly about loss of diagonal parking. Jim would like to see neckdowns to prevent cars from parking too close to corner on Westminster. There was a recent pedestrian accident on Lowell Street east near this intersection. Jim is looking into it and will report at next meeting. John reported costs estimated at \$24,800 (Alt. A) to \$29,000 (Alt. B). He will know soon if there is sufficient money in the budget to do this work next summer. Estimate does not include repaving surface.
7. Summer/Brattle/Hospital Rd. intersection. Suggestion to move crosswalk east (Summer St. at Hospital Rd). Pedestrian crossing time may be inadequate. Howard/Stein-Hudson will look at effects on traffic, FST will review for the Town.
8. Summer Street. At this point contractor is paving everything that has been reclaimed. Not grinding any more asphalt until everything that is open is paved. Utilities are being installed. There is a November 14 public meeting at Peirce School on progress.
9. Oak Hill Drive. Abutters were notified of speed hump proposal, and were opposed. However, residents of this street did request a speed hump a few years ago. What are other options for placement? Police and Fire Chiefs do not favor speed humps on this street. The Symmes Special Permit requires “traffic calming device(s)” for Oak Hill Drive. Ed will contact other residents for input. Look to develop a consensus on what residents want. John will send a letter to abutters that they will not have a speed hump installed in front of their homes.
10. Gray Street. Sidewalk paved and intersection narrowed at Endicott. Gray Street sidewalks prioritized for coming year.
11. Zoning Bylaw amendments. Laura and Howard looked at size of parking spaces and allowance for compact spaces. Zoning bylaw allows up to 40% of spaces to be for smaller cars, reduced width of 1’. Actual number of compact cars on the road is now less than 20%. Result is loss of spaces when cars take up more than one space. Since Arlington’s requirement for size of spaces is on the low side, recommendation that allowance for small car spaces be eliminated from bylaw. Elisabeth asked what other Towns do, and, will this discourage anything we want to happen here? Laura will look at other towns’ requirements. Bylaw also allows 20% reduction in number of spaces by special permit. Question: what are the parking space sizes in Arlington’s muni lots? Zipcar—Recommendation to allow up to 4 spaces in a residential zone for “shared vehicle parking”. Looks ok.
12. Waverley/Oakland. E-mail from Ezra Hale, with concern about speeding. Police have clocked speeds at 28 mph (85th percentile), not excessive. Lieut. McHugh will respond to Selectmen.
13. Traffic Measurements. List was submitted (Attachment E) for streets and intersections where measuring speed or congestion would be helpful. More data should become available from Accucounts, waiting for permission of clients. Warren Street added to list.

14. Mass. Ave. Corridor Phase 1 Update. RFP is ready. Notice will be in “Bulletin of Goods and Services” on Monday (10/23), and available at Town Hall on October 25. Bid opening will be Dec. 6 at 11 am.
15. Irving/Pleasant Streets. Jeff contacted BSC. \$4000 remaining in contract. BSC will look at updating signal timing.
16. Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Handouts:

Ed’s meeting package—Agenda, Correspondence, TAC projects, Rotation List, BoS requests, Outstanding Voted Actions, Memo re. Parking Ban (Scott Smith) Plan for intersection of Summer/Brattle/Hospital Rd., Status of Symmes actions, Suggestion for Measurements (Fall, 2006), “Crosby Street Speeding” (Mike Rademacher)

Laura—Minutes of 9/19/06, Recommendations for changes to Zoning Bylaw re. compact car parking and Zipcar parking.

John—Downing Square estimates

Elisabeth—Downing Square draft mailing to businesses.